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OAPIA Bi-Weekly Newsletter

News Updates from the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

A Message from the Director

Dear Community Members:

The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) is soliciting grant applications from qualified community-based organizations (CBOs) providing direct services to the District's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community for its FY 2015 Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Grant.

The grant is intended to fund programs that provide direct services to the District's AAPI residents and/or merchants in the areas of employment, small business support, public education, public safety, housing services, legal services, health and human services, arts, culture and the humanities, Vietnamese American youth academic and mentoring services, and domestic violence intervention.



I encourage all interested and qualified CBOs that serve the District's AAPI community to apply for this grant opportunity. For more information, please visit www.apia.dc.gov.

Warm Wishes,

Soohyun "Julie" Koo
Director, DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

OAPIA in the Community

OAPIA Promotes Sustainability through AAPI Youth Art Mural Project



OAPIA staff, volunteers, and supporters with youth participants from the art mural project.

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - On Wednesday, July 30, 2014, over 60 Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) youth in grades K-12 from the District of Columbia participated in Paint the Town Green, an art mural project organized by the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) at the Carnegie Library at Mount Vernon Square. Youth expressed their perspective through art on creating greener and more environmentally friendly neighborhoods when presented with the prompt, "If you could make your neighborhood friendlier to the environment, you would..."

"When it comes to sustainability, everyone, including our youth, can get involved to help make the District more socially equitable, environmentally responsible, and economically competitive," said Soohyun "Julie" Koo, OAPIA Director.

For the entire press release, please visit [here](#). For photos, please visit [here](#).

Mayor Gray and OAPIA Meet with Young Man who Asked President Obama About DC Statehood



Mayor Vincent C. Gray, OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo, and DC Youth Advisory Council Director Cedric Jennings meet with Bhadon Shalakin, accompanied by Asian American LEAD Executive Director Surjeet Ahluwalia.

On Thursday, July 31, 2014, Mayor Vincent C. Gray, Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo, and DC Youth Advisory Council Director Cedric Jennings met with Bhadon Shalakin, accompanied by Asian American LEAD (AALEAD) Executive Director Surjeet Ahluwalia. Bhadon, a native Washingtonian, asked President Obama if he supported DC Statehood at a recent town hall event in the District. The President said that he does.

2015 Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Grant Funding Availability

2015 Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Grant

 [LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO APPLY FOR THE GRANT](#)



(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) is

pleased to announce that in Fiscal Year 2015, the office will be receiving funding to be awarded competitively as the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Grant to community-based organizations. The grant will be available to eligible community-based organizations providing direct services to the District's Asian American and Pacific Islander residents or merchants in the underserved areas of employment, small business support, public education, public safety, housing services, legal services, health and human services, arts, culture and the humanities, Vietnamese American youth academic and mentoring services, and domestic violence intervention.

OAPIA expects to formally release a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) on August 8, 2014 and a Request for Application (RFA) on August 15, 2014 at www.apia.dc.gov.

For the entire press release, please visit [here](#).

Greetings from the Community Outreach Assistant



Hi everyone, my name is KangEun Jeong, one of the bilingual Community Outreach Assistants for the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs.

How long have you been in DC?

I moved to the District in September 2012 from Seoul, Korea, so it has been almost two years.

What brings you to DC and what do you enjoy most about DC?

I came to DC as a young immigrant hoping to settle down in the city. After interning and working at various organizations, I finally joined OAPIA this past March to serve as a Community Outreach Assistant. One of the things I enjoy most about DC is the "happy hour" culture. I think it is DC's most unique culture where people can get together and network in an informal setting. Enjoying happy hour specials has also been a big plus.

How do you stay engaged within the community?

At OAPIA, I have been working closely with the AAPI small business community in DC. Visiting their stores door-to-door, our outreach team has reached more than 400 businesses throughout the city. It might sound tiresome, but listening to their concerns and being able to help them has been quite rewarding.

Own Words

Recently, I moved from Dupont Circle to the SW Waterfront area, and I love my new neighborhood. The fish market, Nationals Park, and Yards Park are right my neighborhood!

If you enjoyed reading this profile, please visit [I am AAPI in DC](#) to read additional community member profiles or to submit your own profile!

Spotlight: The National Organization for Vietnamese American Leadership of Greater Washington, DC (NOVAL-DC)



The mission of the National Organization for Vietnamese American Leadership of Greater Washington, DC (NOVAL-DC) is to cultivate a new generation of leaders to continue the work of the first generation of Vietnamese Americans, refugees who fled to freedom after the Vietnam War.

NOVAL-DC's objective is to build a network of 300 professionals who are passionate about giving back to the community and ready to rise to the challenges of our time. NOVAL-DC has chosen a community-centered project, as a vehicle to build teamwork and promote leadership: Viet Heritage Festival, the primary purpose of which is to introduce the Vietnamese cultural heritage to the community at large. Its secondary purpose is to raise funds for "500 in 5," an initiative launched to train 500 new leaders for the Vietnamese American community over the next five years, and hopefully also unite the community together as one.

NOVAL-DC is pleased to organize the third annual [Vietnamese Heritage Festival](#) to be held on August 16 to August 17, 2014 at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, VA.

For more information on [NOVAL-DC](#) or ways to get involved, please visit [here](#).

August is National Immunization Awareness Month



Immunization helps prevent dangerous and sometimes deadly diseases. To stay protected against serious illnesses like the flu, measles, and tuberculosis, adults need to get their shots - just like kids do. National Immunization Awareness Month in August is a great time to promote vaccines and remind family, friends, and coworkers to stay up to date on their shots.

For more information on National Immunization Awareness Month or related resources in the District, please visit:

- [DC Department of Health: Immunization](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Immunization Awareness Month](#)
- [HealthFinder: National Immunization Awareness Month](#)

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